

CONGRATULATIONS TO ATLANTIS  
COMMUNITY AND NORWEST  
BANK COLORADO

**HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 1995*

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Atlantis Community Inc. and Norwest Bank Colorado, both of Denver, for launching one of the Nation's first home mortgage financing and consumer loan programs for lower-income people with disabilities.

On May 17, Social Compact recognized Atlantis and Norwest in its 1995 Outstanding Community Investment Awards program. Social Compact is a Washington-based nonprofit coalition of leaders in financial services and community development industries who work to strengthen neighborhoods.

In partnership with Atlantis, Norwest introduced the Disability Community Homeownership Program in June 1993 as a 1-year pilot, with a \$2.5 million set-aside for loans. The program offers generous and flexible mortgage terms of physically disabled people, allowing them to own their own homes for the first time. Norwest now has generated more than \$6 million in approved loans to more than 100 people in the program.

Atlantis, the largest home health care agency in Colorado, has built awareness of the program through its close links with the disabled community and its financial counseling services. Atlantis also has implemented a homeownership workshop and money management services, which address the needs of disabled people in the home buying process.

Also in partnership with Norwest, Atlantis has developed a consumer loan program for vehicle purchase and modification, home access improvements and independent living aids.

Atlantis and Norwest are a good example of commitment and partnership in the service of others.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN O'TOOLE  
OF CONNECTICUT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 1995*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, one of the most respected leaders in the advertising industry, John E. O'Toole, former President and chief executive of the American Association Of Advertising Agencies, and a resident of Connecticut's Fourth Congressional District passed away in New York.

John O'Toole's four decades in advertising were distinguished by the highest standards he demanded of himself and demanded of his industry. That dedication and determination to provide the American public with quality and seamless honesty earned him his induction this year into the Advertising Hall of Fame.

John O'Toole's leadership, his creativity, his wit, and his friendship will be sorely missed by his family and many, many friends. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Phyllis and his two daughters.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRST OC-  
CUPATIONAL CENTER OF NEW  
JERSEY AND ITS HONOREES

**HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 1995*

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell my colleagues about several very special individuals whose excellent work in the area of occupational and rehabilitational therapy for the aged, the disabled, and the disadvantaged has earned them high honors at the 41st anniversary celebration and annual awards presentation of the First Occupational Center of New Jersey on May 24, 1995.

Peter Coccoziello, president of Consult Realty, Janet May, executive director of the West Essex Chamber of Commerce, John Smith, manager of public affairs at PSE&G, and Joan Verplanck, president of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce will all be the honorees on this memorable occasion. Their work with the center helps individuals and families challenged by both physical and economic disadvantages become contributing members of the community. With the support of individuals, private groups, and Government agencies, the center provides professional counseling and real work opportunities to those who truly need such services. For seniors over age 55, job readiness and placement services are available; for welfare recipients, remedial instruction and work experience are encouraged.

The center, and the outstanding individuals that are being honored, strive to bring dignity and self-confidence to lives that may otherwise lose sight of these essential human traits. I congratulate these honorees: Mr. Coccoziello, Ms. May, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Verplanck for their contributions, and urge them to keep up their good work.

TRIBUTE TO JOSÉ M. GRACIANO

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 1995*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 19, 1995 a group of dedicated public school educators gathered in my congressional district to honor one of their distinguished colleagues, José M. Graciano.

Mr. Graciano has been the principal of P.S. 5 since 1971 and has earned the distinction of being the longest serving public school principal in Community School District Seven. His record of accomplishment at P.S. 5 is truly impressive; he has brought more than two dozen different enrichment programs into his school. We are particularly proud of Mr. Graciano for his accomplishment in creating the first bilingual pre-kindergarten program in the Nation, a title VII grant Project PROBE. Under his leadership, P.S. 5 was designated a model bilingual school, recognizing the successes of such programs as the Bilingual Teacher Corps, Project SABE, Project BETA and CSIP.

Mr. Graciano is an active member of his community and his hard work has earned him numerous awards and recognitions including the Educator of the Year award from the His-

panic Educators Association, the Community Service Award from the Association Civica Arecibeno, the P.S. 5 Parent Teacher Association Award, the Ramon S. Velez Scholarship Committee Leadership Award and the P.S. 5 Parent Teacher Association 20th Anniversary Award.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of my district, Hispanic Americans everywhere, and indeed the entire Nation are the beneficiaries of such lifelong dedication to the education of our youth, and in particular of those often-disadvantaged youngsters who grow up in our inner city communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in conveying best wishes and deep gratitude to Mr. José M. Graciano.

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 1995*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the debate on reforming our health care system has begun to focus on the potential role of medical savings accounts.

I would like to enter into the RECORD some comments from business, consumer, and health policy organizations regarding medical savings accounts [MSA's]. There comments are helpful in evaluating the likely costs and benefits to be derived from MSA's. In sum, these organizations find that the risks of MSA's are high and the rewards are, at best, overstated.

The attached also sheds light on one particular company that is profiting handsomely from MSA's, and how this is so. The level of profits generated by this company, and how they have chosen to spend them, give us reason to take pause.

These comments follow.

FEBRUARY 1, 1995.

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS—NOT FOR  
MEDICARE!

DEAR COLLEAGUE: We have heard much about medical savings account (MSAs) recently. Companies that stand to benefit financially from MSAs—and those who have benefited from the profits of these MSA proponents—have been quick to push their merits. This week, Speaker Gingrich proposed to give Medicare recipients vouchers to enroll in medical savings accounts.

More objective parties—business, consumer and health policy organizations across the potential spectrum—have concluded that the expansion of medical savings accounts will exacerbate problems in the health insurance market.

"While on the surface these proposals have some appeal . . . they pose serious problems . . . There does not appear to be a way to design an MSA that is not detrimental to the goal of achieving universal or near-universal coverage at a reasonable cost."—Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

"To illustrate the current misunderstanding of how MSAs would generally operate, the [Academy] uses an example that appeared in a letter released by Senator Phil Gramm . . . The example seems clear enough. However, like many others, it misrepresents what is generally financially possible."—American Academy of Actuaries

"Our judgment is that the medical IRA is not going to bring about the kind of universal coverage and the stopping of cost shifting